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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/827,441	04/20/2004	Masaaki Tanizaki	501.43771X00	2787

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EXAMINER

ARTHUR JEANGLAUDE, GERTRUDE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2144

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/827,441

Applicant(s)

TANIZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Gertrude Arthur-Jeanglaude

Art Unit

2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: at line 7 of claim 2, the word "an" before processor should be - a - -. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: at line 6 of claim 3, the word "an" before route should be - a - -. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities: at line 3 of claim 8, after the word "less" , the word - - than - - should follow. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayashida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,067,502).

As to claim 1, Hayashida et al. disclose a map information device comprising: a storage unit (37) (See col. 9, lines 45-67) for map data recorded in a rectangular coordinate system; a route search unit (SP30 in Fig. 27) for searching for a route based on information on two geographical points (See Fig. 5); an area generator unit to set an area along the route between the two geographical points; and a map search unit (See

Fig. 21) to search for and output the map data of the area, wherein the area generator unit establishes the area by adding corrections to correct a width (Fig. 15; changing the scale) of the area based on latitude values of the route (See Figs. 8, 15).

As to claim 2, Hayashida et al. disclose a map information device comprising a storage unit (37) for map data; a route search unit for searching for a route between two geographical points (See Fig.5); an area generator unit to set an area along the route between the two geographical points; a processor unit (1) as shown in Fig.1 to simplify the figure of the area; and a map search unit (33) to search for and output the simplified area map data, wherein the processor unit reduces a number consisting the route from the nodes included in the area generated by the area generator (see col. 8, lines 32-62; Fig. 2, F3, F4).

As to claim 3, Hayashida et al. disclose a map information device connected to a terminal comprising a route search unit for searching for a route based on information for two geographical points from the terminal (See abstract; Fig. 1); a route area predictor for predicting enroute stopping points along the route (See Fig.2); an area generator unit to set an area along the route between the two geographical points; and a map search unit (33) to search for and output the map data of the area, wherein the area generator unit establishes an expanded range for the area along the route in the vicinity of the enroute stopping points as the area (See Figs. 3, 37-40).

As to claim 4, Hayashida et al. disclose a map information wherein the route area predictor establishes the enroute stopping points based on the predicted trip time schedule along the route (See col. 34, lines 51-67; col. 35, lines 1-8).

As to claim 5, Hayashida et al. disclose the route area predictor establishes stopping points based on the remaining fuel value information received from the terminal (See col. 70, lines 54-67).

As to claim 6, Hayashida et al. disclose a map information device wherein the route area predictor establishes the enroute stopping points based on the specified rest break time period or a continuous driving time (See col. 69, lines 1-12; col. 70, lines 54-67).

As to claim 7, Hayashida et al. disclose a processor unit (1) as shown in Fig. 1 to simplify the route searched by the route search unit, wherein the processor unit reduces a number of node consisting of the line figure of the route and the map area generator unit sets an area based on a simplified line figure (See Figs. 2-3).

As to claim 8, Hayashida et al. disclose wherein the processor omits the nodes whose distance to next nodes are equal or less the predetermined value (See Fig.13).

As to claim 9, Hayashida et al. disclose a map information device comprising: a processor unit to simplify the line figure of the route searched by the route search unit, wherein the processor unit reduces a number of nodes included in the line figure of the route and the map area generator unit sets an area based on a simplified line figure (See Figs. 2-3).

As to claim 10, Hayashida et al. disclose a map information device wherein the map search unit subdivides the area into multiple area units, and determines map data that intersects or is included in the areas by subdivided area unit (See Fig. 22).

As to claim 11, Hayashida et al. disclose the map search unit subdivides the area into multiple area units, and determines map data that intersects or is included the area by subdivided area units (See Fig. 22).

As to claim 12, Hayashida et al. disclose a map information device with the map data the area based on rectangular coordinates, wherein the area generator unit establishes the area by adding corrections to correct a width of the area based on latitude values of the route (See Fig. 13).

As to claim 13, Hayashida et al. disclose a map information device with the map data based on rectangular coordinates, wherein the area generator unit establishes the area by adding corrections to correct a width of the area based on latitude values of the route (See Fig. 13).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nimura (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,753) discloses a device for searching and guiding route and for searching route.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gertrude Arthur-Jeanglaude whose telephone number is (571) 272-6954. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wiley David can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GAJ



May 18, 2005



GERTRUDE A. JEANGLAUDE
PRIMARY EXAMINER